

**Southern California Mountains Foundation (previously known as National Forest Association but... THEN AGAIN, previously known as the San Bernardino National Forest Association) a recurring branding identity issue!**

My comments in regards to the Restoration (oops, not applying for one this year – likely because of not delivering on the last three funded) make that the Education & Safety (G 15-04-02-S 01) grant submitted by this group are as follows:

ONCE MORE, my comments and problems from years past, from what I can see, have not been addressed nor corrected. Therefore, I don't expect them to be address and/or corrected this year either – this is most frustrating! STILL hoping for change to this waste of MY green sticker funds.

2012 comments for this particular group - [http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=27105](http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=27105)

2013 comments for this particular group - [http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=27373](http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=27373)

2014 comments for this particular group - [http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=27752](http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=27752)

From 2014, Jenny Wilder was a character on '80s TV Show 'Little House on the Prairie'  
NOT a REAL person. "She" also posted "her" rhetoric requesting confiscation of OHVs  
for simplest of issues in 2015 SBNF PD - [http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=28307](http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=28307)

2015 comments for this particular group - [http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=28259](http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=28259)

**Restoration – NONE this year (but watch out for next year as greed truly knows no bounds) So on to Education &**

This group is AGAIN asking for green sticker funds to provide salaries to THEIR staff for their PRIVATE CLUB (they call it their "program") when it seems no other group seeks anything even remotely resembling this. An Education Outreach Coordinator (Program Director?) to the tune of \$50,086 (up from 49 thousand, six-hundred and ten dollars the year prior) seems quite steep and outlandish when they already have submitted requests to fund other staff over the years. A 40-hour work week would come to an amount just shy of 2000 hours for a calendar year. Last year, they had asked for 3000 plus hours for such a position. This year, they simply state that this INDIVIDUAL contributes a 40 hour work week. What happened to accounting for the hours put in by the individual currently holding this position? AGAIN, how would this relate to overtime in regards to labor laws? This does not add up. What have we gotten for our money thus far? Not nearly enough! NOW, a Program Asst to the tune of \$7,500? I'll get to that in more detail later.

A few simple questions were posed to SBNF paid staff in attendance by Mr. Waldheim at a grant seminar public forum held at the SBNF Supervisors Office just a few weeks ago. The Education Outreach Coordinator was in attendance this time around (again, other SCMF websites list this person as a Program Director – which is it?). This person had NOT been in attendance of this type of meeting for over ONE YEAR & SIX MONTHS prior and has been reported to be on disability. Where have the monies (\$49,610 last year and \$48,000 year prior) gone? Has this person been 'double-dipping', so to speak? Has this person been collecting disability at for over two years at OUR EXPENSE? Seems that every year, I'm left scratching my head with OHV program issues left unaddressed. Other organizations submitting grants do far more with less of our money: a fact supported by the content of every other grant submission posted to this public site. The positions of education outreach coordinator and volunteer coordinator should be combined for a total of 30 hours a week as this would seem more sensible given the strained resource funds available for this year.

Volunteers have reportedly donated over 28 thousand hours in 2013 but only 9500 last year. Surprisingly, they NOW show a resurgence to 13,000 for 2015... what happened? Quite the "YO-YO" effect they have been experiencing.

Last year, the program had asked for OUR GREEN STICKER MONEY to fund an OHV Patrol Volunteer Coordinator and another similar position within restoration project – (THREE YEARS OF SALARIES in a one year grant) amounting to over 165 thousand dollars- \$165,000 !! THIS IS AN OUTRAGE !! Especially when they claim they need MORE funding for yet ANOTHER POSITION. This time, it's a program assistant for 500 hours at a cost TO US of \$7,500 a year.

"A Program Assistant is needed to keep pace with coordinating program deliverables during the busy summer/fall season. SCMF will recruit and train a full-time paid internship working directly with the Education Outreach Coordinator. Responsibilities include; providing OHV education to visitors at SBNF visitor center ie. the Big Bear Discovery Center, staffing OHV mobile kiosks, and providing ORT programs to school and youth groups, providing support for distribution of education materials through online vehicles such as facebook, twitter and our website." *What about the TWO positions requested for last year within the restoration grant they applied for? Are they simply throwing darts at the board waiting to see what sticks?* Again, another submission that looks to be quite excessive ESPECIALLY when they just applied LAST YEAR for \$165,000 for three years salary to fund OHV Patrol Volunteer Coordinator AND another "not yet named" position. THE GREED IS JUST TOO MUCH TO BEAR! Their own SCMF Vols, as well as the Adopt-A-Trail program volunteers, do a great majority of these very same duties... and virtually at no cost to the green sticker funds as far as I can tell. The volunteer hours submitted for the match appear to be inflated – quite possible that another audit is in order.

"The SCMF OHV Program created an educational land-use curriculum known as "On the Right Trail" ... "Taught in schools and at public events" *(I've been in attendance in person at EVERY trade show they claim to attend and have yet to hear this message from anyone at their booth).*

"The SCMF OHV Program's educational efforts also target current OHV users through the OHV Dealer Liaison program." *(SO... again I have to say I've visited over 20+ dealers in the So Cal area – their proposed target audience – and only two have even HEARD of this group, let alone been so advised of their 'so-called' message).*

"Staff and volunteers will attend OHV industry trade-shows and OHV dealership open houses." *(The only message I've been witness to at these shows is HEAVY RECRUITMENT – like AMWAY or SCIENTOLOGY. Isn't using OUR green sticker funds for recruitment to a PRIVATE – MEMBERS ONLY club against the rules set forth in the criteria governing the OHV grant applicants? As I've read AND have been told – this truly IS against the rules!!)*

"Volunteers ride forest roads and trails on motorcycles, ATV's, RUV's or 4x4s and interact with user groups. The mission of these rides is to educate, but they also have a positive effect on deterring illegal activity by creating an "official presence" in the forest." *(Waving at forest visitors as their "patrols" speed past does NOT constitute a contact to a forest trail user – though they continually claim, year after year, this makes a difference. IT DOES NOT - verbal communication is REQUIRED)!*

"OHV Vols are able to hand out maps, provide riding info...to OHV users and forest visitors. Meetings between OHV Vols and visitors lead to excellent in-the-field education opportunities. *(AGAIN, "Meetings" must require stopping and engaging in verbal communication... not WAVING while traveling past on their private "JOY RIDES").*

## **Education & Safety**

This issue, above all else, is of the most importance as with more proper education of the OHV public comes less resource damage... at least one would hope for as much. They state their program is open to the public yet there is no internet forum available to the general OHV public for sake of transparency. This should be MANDATORY for any organization requesting OUR public funds. Otherwise, this should be deemed a private "members-only" club in the eyes

(continued) of the OHMVR and not subject to receiving public funds for CLOSED FUNCTIONS & MEETINGS. Are all members of the public welcome to their monthly "general membership" meeting? The answer to that question is NO! Adopt-A-Trail OHV has been practicing this aspect at their meetings thus far so this should be practiced in regards to this group as well. Transparency, ABOVE ALL, should be a strong and lasting requirement.

Representatives of the Corona area Sizzler Restaurant has, time & time again, requested CERTAIN attendees pay for a meal when entering their establishment (even for attending a so-called public meeting held by a group funded by PUBLIC DOLLARS). This must be put to a halt or this group should NOT receive ANY of our green sticker funds!

A year prior, a request for 18 thousand dollars for a mobile kiosk was far-fetched at best – yet it was fully funded. Was this 'ROLLING BILLBOARD for education or recruitment? This amount would have better been served for education in schools and other community area events. Three years ago, a total of 24 visits to local schools had been submitted. (continued) Two years ago, that number has lessened to just over half of that (15). LAST YEAR – NONE! THIS YEAR – NONE ONCE AGAIN! Why the reduction (or elimination) in education? Again, this should be paramount.

This brings me to the issue of \$9,720 for mileage ( just under 11 thousand dollars last year). Why such an exorbitant figure has been submitted AGAIN is beyond me. The so-called "Program Director" has been staying up at Geraldine Heston's home in nearby Lake Arrowhead for over two (2) years now (while collecting disability, no less). So why the need for such a high amount of funds for mileage? Should be HALF of what has been submitted. Any other agency would be requesting 14 cents a mile so why do they feel worthy of 54 cents a mile? Driving your PERSONAL VEHICLE to and from work should be paid out of HIS pocket – NOT OURS!

Further, they are requesting 2400 dollars ONCE AGAIN for admission to trade shows and other promoter-sanctioned events. Others I am in contact with are currently involved with various off-road non-profits and those groups have attended over ten (10) shows, three of which were also attended by the SCMF troop group. As I've been told, D37 & BBTR have yet to pay a single dime to these show promoters and they are very active in promoting responsible off-road use and education. Therefore, why the 2400 dollars for JUST TWO EVENTS?

In the categories of brochures and signs, AGAIN, they are requesting much more money than would ever seem reasonable, let alone prudent. 22 thousand dollars seems over the top for one calendar year (was a whopping \$25,000 last year and \$20, two years ago). Just three years ago, they did quite well with 8 thousand minus the match and did just fine by all accounts. Simply place this information on line and let the public choose to print pertinent information as needed.

In years past, I had made strenuous attempts to show support for this applicant. After thorough review of this application, just as was done two years ago and last year, I say again that I cannot "NOT" support their funding for the education & safety grant as submitted.

Lastly, the SCMF openly "recruits" for new members for their base at trade shows AND at organized dual sport rides put on by TRUE non-profit groups such as Big Bear Trail Riders, Orange County Dualies, AMA District 37, among others. The aforementioned groups that put on these rides pay a great amount of FEES to the San Bernardino Natl Forest in the form of a Special Use Permit. The SCMF Volunteers are ill-informed by their leadership that they can participate in these rides FOR FREE... a vast majority of FS OHV Volunteers not paying a dime to the worthy charities for which these organized rides are to benefit. These dual sport groups mentioned above contributed THOUSANDS OF HOURS to the Adopt-A-Trail program by way of trail maintenance and promotion of the SBNF OHV Trail System at various off-road shows and other events throughout Southern California. Why can't the SBNF repay the favor by foregoing these fees?

These funds should be going to the worthwhile charities that need them most... THE KIDS FIGHTING CANCER - NOT TO A GOV'T AGENCY!

In closing, it must be noted that most of the volunteers have, within their hearts, the wish to do a world of good for my beloved San Bernardino National Forest off-road trail system. They have demonstrated this factor to varying extents over the 15+ years of their existence. Though over the last two years or so has seen a measurable lessening of their member base and subsequent divergence from the intended message of its founders, they still manage to hold on. This being said, the fact remains that our state has reduced the funds available in regards to the education category. 2.3 million available three years ago, 1 million two years ago and 1.5 million just last year. This year, a mere 1.3 million of available funds this year for the entire state and this Grant applicant is AGAIN asking for over 9% of the available funds. Such provisions awards may deny others of much needed assistance. I believe it would be best for the available funds to be shared more evenly throughout all the Grant applicants. [Dan Simmerman]